

# Creating Sentence Variety

## ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

**sentence variety** use of sentences of different lengths, patterns, and types

**opener** single-word modifier or phrase used to begin a sentence

**sentence pattern:** category of grammatical structure of a sentence

**simple:** one independent clause

**compound:** two independent clauses joined by comma and the conjunction *and*, *but*, or *or*

**complex:** one independent clause plus a dependent clause

**sentence type:** statement, question, command, or exclamation

## HERE'S HOW

**Step 1: Use sentence openers.** Sentence openers will help you avoid beginning every sentence with subject-verb order.

### EXAMPLE

**Subject-verb order:** The pony was hot and sweaty. The pony rolled in the grass.

**Opener:** Hot and sweaty, the pony rolled in the grass.

**Step 2: Vary sentence lengths and patterns.** Combine short, simple sentences into compound or complex sentences.

### EXAMPLE

**Simple sentences:** My plan was to bake cookies. I grabbed the bowl on the top shelf. The dog barked suddenly. I therefore lost my grip on the bowl. The bowl broke.

**Variety:** My plan was to bake cookies. I was grabbing the bowl on the top shelf when the dog suddenly barked. Therefore, I lost my grip on the bowl and it broke.

**Step 3: Include a variety of sentence types.** Vary the use of statements, questions, commands, and exclamations.

### EXAMPLE

**Statements only:** You know better than to get on the couch. You made it all furry. I don't want you to give me those big eyes. We can go for a walk together.

**Variety:** Don't you know better than to get on the couch? Now it's all furry. Oh, don't give me those big eyes! Come on, let's go for a walk.